

NORTHERN

UF

NEWS

127

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J.R. Comments.. Its that case again! What case, I hear you ask? Can there really be any other but the Rendlesham Forest, RAF Bentwaters saga? It certainly seems to have been going on for ever!

In the current issues of both *UFO Brigantia* and *Quest*, Robert Moore writes knowledgeably about the first night (27 December 1980) when the 'real' sky crash is supposed to have happened. He questions the basic assumption that it was a UFO, in a manner which I could not dispute. The last issue of this newsletter featured my revised scenario for the second night (29/30 December), when I strongly believe the authorities (presumably using Colonel Charles Halt) duped a number of inexperienced men into thinking they had seen UFOs, when in fact they had only seen stars and the infamous Orford Ness lighthouse!

Whilst we await Dot Street's 'sequel' to 'Sky Crash', which she is publishing herself, this may be a good time to question the entire basis of this case.

It is interesting that YUFOS are now stating (current issue of *Quest*) that they were the first people responsible for challenging the idea that a UFO might have been involved in the case. Also, in a strange review of my book *The UFO Conspiracy*, in the present issue of *Magonia*, John Rimmer questions whether I was used by the authorities because of my willingness to believe in over-the-top UFO tales. Both these things seriously misrepresent the truth.

Sky Crash as a book reflects the views of three people, who did not always agree. Brenda Butler and myself were very sceptical of the idea that the UFO was real. Dot Street was much more open to that. But I still think we adequately demonstrated a lack of conviction about the UFO nature of the story. Disinformation options were certainly discussed at some length.

I can also legitimately argue that from the very start I made my opinions felt. In the original *Northern UFO News* special on the case (number 88, January 1982) I suggested that there were many reasons to suppose that the idea of a UFO crash was a smokescreen for a military operation gone wrong. I again expressed that view later in the year, when I produced a two-part series on the case for the weekly encyclopedia *The Unexplained*.

It is true that my principle idea at that time was a crash of a plane carrying a nuclear weapon and the natural sensitivity of this with cruise missiles being shipped to Britain under considerable pressure from peace campaigners. Any accident involving such weapons would have to be hidden, because the resultant media coverage might well lead to so much negative publicity that locating the missiles on British bases would have been almost impossible.

That seemed a reasonable idea at the time, but is unlikely to be true. If nothing else it was not practicable for a plane to crash into the dense pine forest without leaving obvious devastation. But it was feasible that a weapon might have accidentally fallen into the woods and required emergency recovery procedures.

To be fair, it seems that others thought similarly. When Cable News Network, a leading US TV company, sent Chuck De Caro over to film a report on the case he spent much time questioning me about nuclear weapons and I learnt from him that his specialist forte was making features for CNN about nuclear incidents, not UFOs or the paranormal. He was also a former USAF intelligence officer and thus had access to sources on the base we could not get near. He continually referred to security codes for nuclear incidents (one of which was 'Covered Wagon') asking if these had ever been mentioned by witnesses.

The other case in point came after the hardback was in print. I had a call from a man who professed to be a nuclear propulsion expert on contract with the Ministry of Defence. He had supposedly read the book, become convinced that something was in it and done some checks. In the 1986 paperback edition I wrote an appendix which mentions this man, whose name is Alan Bond, and the fact that he became persuaded of a probable recovery of a Soviet nuclear powered satellite!

Bond was of the opinion that the recovered object was flown back to the USA and the UFO story on base was probably a camouflage to confuse any speculation. If men babbled on about spaceships, if intelligence officers were positively encouraged to do so in front of UFO investigators. And (in my view) if spurious UFO sightings were engineered and tape recorded as 'proof'... then the result would be that no self-respecting source would look into the matter or take notice of UFO investigators, even when we did question the UFO nature of the case. Meanwhile the satellite engine was flown to Houston, where it seems that some people named Cash and Landrum accidentally got irradiated during a cock-up in the transportation.

Not all of this was suggested by Alan Bond, but that is a reasonable extrapolation from what he told me. He also warned that we were messing with something 'for which you could easily end up at the bottom of the Thames.' It certainly fits the otherwise inexplicable manner in which the USAF intelligence officers told the radar people at Watton why they needed the radar film. That they reported the experience as a crashed UFO is a virtual guarantee that it was no such thing! Because, if it had been, the radar film would just have disappeared, without any possibility of an explanation.

The one thing we can say with some conviction is that explanations in this case were planted and were spurious and were designed to mislead. They are still achieving that even today, because nobody with the authority is challenging the UFO status of this case. Everyone who has been alerted, eg Lord Hill-Norton (former defence minister here), Senator James Exon in the USA and MPS such as David Alton (not afraid to push for principles, as his current abortion bill demonstrates) have all become very excited, made enquiries and then gone deathly silent. Odd, isn't it?

Disinformation still goes on. There are some reasons to believe that a certain 'Des Naylor', recently referenced in *Quest*, may be up to something. Eric Morris, a BUFORA RIC who recently 'retired' from the Navy after official pressure to curtail his UFO activities, challenges many aspects of Naylor's claim that he was aboard the HMS Norfolk, stationed off the Suffolk coast during the whole Sky Crash affair. Not least of his reasons for questioning the story is the written proof Eric has that the HMS Norfolk was in dock throughout the entire latter part of December and well into January!

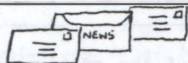
Unhappily, but not surprisingly, YUFOS are refusing to allow Eric to expertly question their witness, and the witness (surprise, surprise) wants total publicity.

We can add to this probable misinformation another attempt directed at me that is currently ongoing. I can say little at this stage, except that I have been offered first hand testimony ("it really was a UFO with aliens - honest") from someone who was WITH Halt during the events and witnessed the aftermath too. This rekindling of the flagging ETH has been going on throughout the case (witness Colonel Conrad's 1983 statement to OMNI, the release in 1984 of the Halt tape and his aborted promise to speak at the BUFORA conference this year). This is some of the best evidence of all that UFOs do not lie behind this case... but something very important and politically sensitive does.

Incidentally, those sharp-eyed amongst you who may wonder about Alan Bond's credentials might have spotted him in the international news lately! Remember the HOTOL space plane and its designer who has threatened to breach the official secrets act and give all his work on the project to any friendly power who (unlike the Thatcher government) is willing to fund the project? You may care to know that he WAS Alan Bond... the one and the same.

As has been the case throughout this Rendlesham saga, those in positions of power who foolishly challenge the huge conspiracy over this 'crash' end up suffering political or social repercussions. All a coincidence, no doubt.

NEWS ROUND-UP...



*** It has certainly been a time of changes in the group situation. You are advised to study the listing most carefully on page 16 this time round. The biggest change has been the new "super group" created in Yorkshire by the merging of WYUFORG and YUFON. Quite a number of outlying people on the fringes have come into the scheme...including several ex-YUFOS stalwarts. The new name is IUN (Independent UFO Network) and it has more of the spirit of the old UFOIN than an actual group with wide open membership. It will be restricted to active investigators and will publish a revised *UFO Brigantia* as its house journal. The principal address is Philip Mantle's, who also operates the phone hotline on 0924-444049. However, all the other addresses will still be valid...including the erstwhile WYUFORG Leeds address (which was that of Martin Daglass) and, of course, the magazine editorial address, which will continue as before with Andy Roberts. With the addition of some very able new investigators, such as Rodney Haworth from Burnley and David Kelly from Chesterfield the IUN will be a major new force in British ufology and I am pleased to report that they are officially liaising with both BUFORA and NUFON.

You will also note the addition of two more groups, one in Northamptonshire and under the influence of BUFORA Al's Ernie Still and Ray Shaw (with unfortunate initials!!)...The other in South Cheshire and Staffordshire (an area long uncovered) and run by BUFORA RIC Eric Morris, who used to operate a group in Plymouth before his recent move north. Update your address books NOW!

*** Whilst on the subject of addresses, those who have been awaiting publication of Dot Street's self-published sequel to 'Sky Crash' (some of whom have paid her I gather) are asked to be patient. Dot wishes me to explain that there have been delays but the venture will appear in due course. Part of the difficulty has been caused by Dot having to sell her home. Her new address is:-
66 Drapers Copse (Mobile Homes Park) Claypitts Lane Dibden Hants SO4 4STR

*** Reader Mike Burrows from Drmskirk asks if anyone has information on the odd events which allegedly occurred on 26 June 1987 (the day the Washington DC conference opened). He says that at 6.28pm on the BBC national news a caption of a UFO was suddenly shown and then hastily removed. The embarrassed newscaster referred to it, saying he had no idea what it was there for. Next day news broke of a British Airways encounter with a UFO which the BBC did not cover. Evidence for a 'D' notice on the state-owned channel, he wonders?

*** For those who live in the Granada TV region you might like this story about 'Granada Reports' TV presenter Juliet Alexander. Recently, after all their UFO records mysteriously vanished from the computer, I had lunch with her to fill some gaps. Explaining about how we sometimes get cases via the facility at Jodrell Bank, this nice, young (and obviously naive!) woman said - in all sincerity - "Why would anybody report UFOs to a bank?"

*** Thanks to racing tipster Darren Chanter from Bradford who advises you to consider a horse he has backed at 33-1 for next year's 1000 Guineas at Newmarket. Since his backing it has won races and the odds are now less favourable. Why is he recommending it to you? Its name is 'Bluebook'.

FOR YOUR PERUSAL:-

Major articles elsewhere



UFO BRIGANTIA Sep-Oct (£5.50, 6 issues; -84 Elland Rd Brighouse W, Yorks HD6 2QR)
More on IUN formation. David Clarke updates earthlights-folklore ufology.

JTAP Sept 1987 (BUFORA Sub, £14 pa; -16 South Way Burgess Hill Sussex RH15 9ST)
Lively issue! Good experiment into witness estimates of duration, full abstracts of all papers at the July 87 congress. Professor Allen Tough on ET behaviour patterns and an absurd attempt by Stuart Campbell to explain the Alan Godfrey abduction as a mirage of Venus, notable for its incredible (false) guesswork.

THE UNKNOWN (£15.60, 12 issues; -1 Clarendon Rd Croydon Surrey CR0 3SJ)
Still going strong. Most particularly relevant are SEPT (results of the survey by JR into the most evidential UFO cases of the past 40 years) and OCT (JR reviews the MJ-12 documents in critical detail and David Barclay writes interestingly on the 'reality games' of UFO entities. He has matured a good deal of late.)

MAGONIA Sept 1987 (£3.4 issues; -5 James Terrace Mortlake London SW14 8HB)
Stuart Campbell and his ever faithful mirages; this time explaining EVERYTHING!

MUFON Journal Aug 1987 (\$30, 12 issues; -103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78155 USA)
The definitive detailed review of the Washington DC conference, with pix...including Larry Warren of Bentwaters fame spinning fairy tales to P. Klass.

OMNI Oct 1987 (Monthly from most major newsagents - at £1.50 per issue)
UFO Update this month is by JR on the goings on in 'mystery circle' land in 1987

One new magazine to note is PARASEARCH Viewpoint, a 3pp photocopied production four times yearly. It gives brief notes on West Midlands strange phenomena. No sub details known but exchanges are apparently welcomed via David Taylor:-
79 Sandringham Rd Wordsley Stourbridge West Midlands DY8 5HL

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



UFOs: 1947-1987 £12.50, post free to BUFORA members... Plus £2 to others
384pp, heavily illustrated... From BUFORA Ltd (see JTAP address above)

What do you say about a book like this? The brainchild of Hilary Evans and compiled with another council member John Spencer it is packaged by Fortean Times as their first in a series of exciting publication ventures. I defy you to tell this is not a 'real' book from a big league publisher. Indeed, because it did not have to bend in the breeze of commercialism, it is actually BETTER!

Nearly 50 articles by so many famous names its pointless trying to list them. But it contains deep looks at every aspect of the UFO field and has many superb chapters, including new works from old favourites like John Keel and Jacques Vallee, who have been quiet of late. No serious researcher can be without this mega book...one of the most important published in years. Not just because I am on the BUFORA council I assure you...I do urge you to save up and buy it! (And if you join BUFORA at the same time you effectively get a £2 discount - plug, plug)

STRANGE SHEFFIELD £2.25, post free... From -103 Derbyshire Lane, Sheffield, S8 9EW
114pp, illustrated with drawings, photos and map, By David Clarke & Rob Wilson

An excellent collection of folk tales, legends and ghostly stories (with some passing relevance to ufology and earth lights in places). This chunky book is easy to read and marvellous value. There's plenty in it and it is by very knowledgeable local researchers. If you live nearby, or have a fondness for South Yorkshire, this book is for you. My one gripe is the lack of an index...badly missed in such a sizable book packed with names, places and facts.

COVER-UP OR CONSPIRACY?

In the USA the MJ-12 documents continue to be the source of much controversy. Are they really the result of Presidential authority for 'Majestic Twelve'—a top secret group to study crashed UFOs and dead aliens—or, as many of us suspect, are they more examples of disinformation? The furor has even reached the scientific press and strong doubts remain. I decided not to go into the matter when writing *The UFO Conspiracy* (not my title, incidentally, but as usual of late publishers have refused to see the wisdom of not calling a book 'UFO').

Things were very different with Tim Good. His publishers not only saw the sense of a bland cover and title (*Above Top Secret*) but they extraordinarily allowed a huge and very expensive book to be launched onto the market. Thanks, I suspect, to the fortuitous 'Spy Catcher' affair they cornered the 'secrets' market and did very well.

So, with my book out in May and Tim's two months later there has been an onslaught of cover-up material before the public. How have they responded? It is quite interesting to compare and contrast because the books deal with similar material in different ways. Tim's has a more erudite feel to it and looks bulky and impressive. Mine is more a story-telling book, largely because the decision not to release in paperback was a very late one and the volume was never intended as a hardback. Tim is also much more inclined towards the ETH and this is why it's all being hidden, whereas I plump for the cover-up of ignorance angle and moot the idea of a gradual education process to reveal this uncertainty.

Both books received similar amounts of media coverage (whilst Tim plugged his on the ITV breakfast TV show I was duelling with Patrick Moore on the rival BBC to hype mine!) But the calibre of media treatment was very different, obviously reflecting both the widely varying attitudes of the publishing companies and the way in which media reviewers saw the product.

Blandford went for the popular end of the market and sold serial rights to *The Sunday Mirror* (again—given what I have said in these pages about that newspaper—definitely NOT my decision!). The two part series (17 and 24 May) was curious in that although it claimed to be 'adapted' from my book it actually featured several cases not in there! It also added things to others that were! This brought an exchange of letters with TV personality Hughie Green, who at one stage threatened to sue us because of something the *Mirror* added to the account of the Roswell incident. Happily that got resolved, but it was interesting to note how the paper extracted just one direct quote, out of context, from my book...implying very specifically that I believed UFOs were "alien devices"...which as any reader of my work will know is rather removed from the full truth.

The Western Mail article on my book was quite interesting. Again it assumed that to claim cover-up meant you were talking about spaceships but with a masterpiece of circular logic their science editor suggested that there can be no cover-up of dead aliens because if there were scientists would have the autopsy reports on said entities to study...Hold on, you lost me there! And my local paper (*The Stockport Times*) outdid everyone for silliness. Because the general election happened to be on at the time they chose to turn their review into a front page banner headline (which did me no harm in local bookstores). "UFO Cover-Up: Author claims vote loss fear" was its absurd headline! A great lesson in how to extract a tiny reference to politicians preferring not to admit they don't know what is going on and use it to marvellous advantage. "Jenny estimates 100,000 people in Britain, including some from Stockport, have been abducted" it went on to allege.

Tim also got many similar local stories, although he offered more meat to chew on. He has taken, rather more seriously than I think he should, cases the media loved (eg astronaut sightings—which cropped up a lot). My book explains away most of the astronaut sightings and that fact never got a single mention in any review...Indeed none of the debunking in my book did!

Where Tim scored heavily was in the highbrow reviews. His book had many and mine none. *The Guardian*, *Express*, *Telegraph* and *Spectator* all reviewed *Above Top Secret*, which alone practically guaranteed its success, as did the extremely vitriolic arguments in these reviews. David Sexton in the *Telegraph* (19 July) asks "what is a more or less reputable publisher like Sidgwick & Jackson doing issuing a farrago such as this?" Meanwhile Adrian Berry (the man whose lies—and I use that word advisedly—told the Rendlesham story in the highbrow press some years back) was at it again in the *Spectator* (1 Aug). In perhaps the biggest single reason why the book did so well he launches into an amazing attack. He asks how many trees were sacrificed to this "evil book. Little of it is original, much of it is false...Mr Good's ideas are those of a maniac. But he writes with a certain coarse eloquence, and there is a danger he might infect others as uneducated as himself." A whole page of that sort of stuff followed, and whilst I agree that little in either of our books is new and I do feel Tim overstates his case—this kind of obsessive mudslinging says more about Berry (and the newspaper who allowed it to be printed) than it does about *Above Top Secret*.

Oddly, it was *Weekend*, reviewing my book, which did the best job of summing up the cover-up. ("SSH...there's a flying saucer about" 7 Jul) they quote the most crucial part of my conclusions, "One thing is clear. The public is being deceived on a colossal scale. Ordinary citizens are being labelled fools for honestly describing what they saw. The media is being manipulated by force-fed information that directs it towards required goals. Science is being hoodwinked by the powers—that be, who may well want to preserve the monopoly they hold for research."

Above Top Secret is in its third print run and has clearly done better than Sidgwick could have dreamt. *The UFO Conspiracy* has also done better than Blandford expected, going into two editions and leading to the paperback it was supposed to be arriving just after Christmas. With Tim having been asked to do a sequel for Sidgwick and surely a paperback likely for later in 1988 there are more interesting times ahead...especially as the *Communion* softback arrives on 4 Feb and then BUFORAs "Phenomenon", in hard and paperback, on 17 March.

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MEDIA MATTERS:-

A look at UFOs in the public eye



For some reason I seem to have been 'discovered' by the gossip column of the *Manchester Evening News*, having featured in there five times since May!!! The most recent (12 Oct) was in 'Not seeing the light?' where I explained all the errors in the launch issue of a new weekly, *BELLA*. Quite without telling me *BELLA* chose to use my personal 'close encounter' (sic) on a nationwide TV advert to promote the magazine. Jenny sees the UFOs—the TV screen blared before my disbelieving eyes several times a day for a whole week. Sadly this 'fame' came by way of a curious black and white 'dramatisation' of something bearing no resemblance to the three parachute flares I saw in 1980. *BELLA* said this was from a "deserted Wiltshire road"...it was in fact the M4 motorway!!!

A number of other UFOs have received less coverage. One involved a strange metal object that fell in flames on a Minehead roof. Police enquiries found it was an old shock absorber from a Ford Capri which somehow turned into a missile. But this did not stop the *Star* (12 Sep) inventing the delightful headline ("It's raining Datsun Cogs"), Smashing!

The Aetherius Society were promoted by *Police Review* (31 Jul), asking PCs to send their reports. Appalled I demanded to redress the balance and wrote a 'nine out of ten UFOs are UFOs' piece ("Arresting those martians"—25 Sep). Despite this tone and use of my address and phone number—NOT A SINGLE case has come in. Interesting eh? Who said there is no block on police cooperation?

At least *BELLA* brought in 50 letters and some good sightings.

BRIEF CASES:-

Some current investigations

TWO UNUSUAL ENTITY CASES

(1) A WAR-TIME LANDING? Investigation: Philip Mantle IUN

Mr W was aged 22 when this experience occurred in May 1943. He was working as an aircraft armer at a base north east of Norwich. The investigator found him still active and with a lively mind, and although Philip's excellent report shows that he tends to ramble he clearly recalls the strange events well.

W had missed the last train and so was walking back to the base through the village of Catfield towards Ludham. W calls it "Ludden" in his testimony and gets several other names wrong (eg Onning instead of Horning). But careful use of a map in conjunction with the case file should ensure that you do not get too



lost. Suddenly he saw a green glow which, as he approached turned out to be a normal looking man wearing something like a divers helmet. He was stood by the road and the green cast came from a box on his chest. The only odd feature was a perpetual, almost sickly, grin. In the field beside the man was a grey 'bell tent' about 12 feet high. Two other men were standing near this, although it was not possible to see these too well. W rushed past quite frightened and learnt when he reached his barracks that another man had seen something in the area, but W did not obtain details. He was due on early morning duty soon after and did not report the matter (it is odd that he failed to perceive it as necessary, because he initially thought the Germans had invaded!). However, for two weeks W was too frightened to walk that same road.

Philip Mantle is hoping to get details of uniforms and possible exercises in the area out of the MoD (good luck!) I note that on the same heath, just a few miles from this spot, is RAF Neatishead—a radar base which figures in the famous 1956 Lakenheath-Bentwaters radar-visual. Was radar operational here in 1943 and, if so, how tight was local security? It is curious that the green glow which W reports is not unlike the effect given off by a radar screen.

(2) GREMLINS II:- A very strange old case Investigation: MUFORA

Mrs G describes herself as a "professional astrologer" and she has lead a very odd life. She reports all manner of bizarre experiences, some with her husband. These include seeing many apparitions of the living and seeing "a most distinctive man dressed in a red track suit, tall and dark and looking rather like the old pictures of the devil—without horns".

She has also had what she calls "time warps" whilst walking along streets in Swiss Cottage, London (who hasn't). And perhaps strangest of all, "I once had the odd experience of standing up and feeling there were two of me, and not sure which was the real me. Don't panic I told myself. This is a valuable experience. But I did panic and snapped together to my relief and was whole again."

In late 1985 in the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead, she saw the "death flash" (like a reverse lightning bolt). This shot into the sky moments before a man came into the dayroom to announce that a friend of hers had just died. A few days later, whilst watching Ian Botham on TV, his face suddenly changed into that of her deceased friend who was smiling happily.

But what has all this got to do with UFOs, you may ask? This stems from May 1972 when on a coach tour through the Soviet Union and Poland,

Between Smolensk and Moscow, at about 10 pm, she observed an orange disc that paced them for some minutes before vanishing. She was convinced it was a UFO, even though nobody else on the coach took any notice. But MUFORA has checked astronomical data. She only recalls the date as "late May". On the 28th the moon was full and low on the horizon in the same part of the sky as the UFO at that time. We believe it is a safe bet the moon WAS the UFO.

But there's more! On the same trip, during the middle of the night, she was passing near Posen in Poland. She says, "everyone was asleep except for the driver and myself...there was a companion coach directly ahead which I could see very clearly. Then I saw a group of GREMLINS on the roof of the bus. They were the size of a child of 7 or 8 years, but very human in appearance, yet obviously not human. They were not quite solid, yet not transparent. They climbed up the coach and gambolled on the top...They seemed to be fully aware of the humans sleeping inside and were gleeful at being able to move freely unobserved. I seemed to feel their contempt for two solid humans who are dense to them, and stupid, slow and lacking in vision. I told myself I must be hallucinating, but continued to 'see' them for quite a long time...they were not of the same time-space and physical dimension."

Despite being sat in the front seat only inches from the driver she never brought this spectacle to his attention. So far as this is concerned MUFORA's conclusion can be summed up as "Pass!"

Case 76-178 October 1976 Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire Investigation: Clive Potter LUFOIC & Mark Sampson BASE Level A SP Rating 3-7

A superb case report well worth studying on the BUFORA files to see just how to put one together. Aside from the case summary, photos, maps and site sketches there is a complete interview transcript and transcripts of both the anamnesis questionnaire and the psigenics one. This was devised by researchers Andy Collins, Martin Keatman and Graham Phillips to look for physiological factors common in paranormal witnesses.

Witness KO has now applied to be a BUFORA AI and the investigators found him intelligent and credible. There are basically two events involved, the first being at the age of 12.

On this occasion one mid evening he and a younger brother saw a white misty dome glide across the bottom of the garden and disappear. KO was paralysed during this event but the brother ran inside and fled.

Three or four years later, during the spring or summer, KO saw a silvery white ball in the sky. He had time to go indoors and get his telescope and watch it, along with three other brothers. It was broad daylight (midday) and the object disappeared by turning through a sharp 90 degrees and shooting away. This behaviour pattern is quite common with certain UAP types...see, for example, the Eastern Airport case reported in NUN 110.

The investigators are of the opinion that this is probably some type of natural phenomenon, possibly earthlights. There are some fault lines quite nearby.

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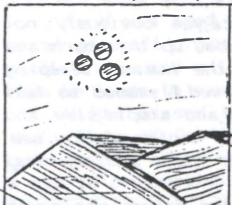
SPOTLIGHT UFO Case 77-343 Investigation: MUFORA Level C SP Rating 4-7

This case is a good illustration of the way in which paranormal events seem to intertwine. Keely from Nuneaton, Warwickshire, is the witness—a 21 year old typist. She has had several strange experiences.

At age 15 she lived in an old house which her father was almost totally rebuilding. For nights on end she awoke at 2.30am as if by some sort of alarm. Then, one night after this had happened, she felt the bed begin to ripple as

if a force was pushing from underneath and the pop song 'Dont you want me baby' was echoing inside her head. For several minutes she was paralysed. Then it stopped and she fled to tell her sister. Later she also told her step-mother, who explained that it was 'just a dream'. In fact she had had an identical dream a few nights before!

Keely's UFO came one night in 1977 (not spring or summer as it was 8pm and dark). She was playin' 'spotlight' with some friends (the names are not recalled). The object was that one player ('it') would wait until the others hid and then try to spotlight someone with a flashlight. The first person to be



caught by the beams was the next. During a game the cry 'UFO' went up. At first it was assumed to be a ruse to get someone out, but eventually they all saw a set of three "large, bright white lights in a triangle as if to form a circle... This skimmed over us, then sped off over houses". In height it was just 50 or 60 feet up and totally silent. They were all well used to seeing aeroplanes flying over during their games and Keely is convinced the silence, swooping motion and very odd light formation rule this out. On no

occasion did the formation of lights alter in perspective as they flew over their heads.

Between these two experiences Keely had a very vivid dream, which still haunts her now. In this she was being chased by a UFO which was trying to capture her. To escape she hid in a dustbin.

Case 8180 14 December 1981 Handsworth, Sheffield, S. Yorks Investigation: David Clarke IUN Level A SP Rating 2-7

Witness is Mrs E, aged 53 and warden of the local parish centre. She was returning from the Rectory to the centre at around 9.30pm when she observed a blue/white ball, about the size of a tennis ball at arms length. This moved east to west and fell in an arc into the churchyard of St Mary's. Next day Mrs E checked for burns but there were none. BUFORA AI David Clarke knows the witness personally and is satisfied of her credibility. Whilst I would think the most likely answer here is a bright meteor which just 'seemed' to land in the church, David adds the interesting facts that the churchyard has a 'grey lady' ghost and is noted for being struck by 'thunderbolts'. In 1696 a 'great ball of fire' destroyed the tower. From this he has reason, to speculate about a form of earth energy UAP.

THE GLOW IN THE SKY

Case 8641 24/28 June 1986 Investigation: Malcolm Robinson, SPI Level C

Another major case file crammed pack with detail. It is truly pleasing to find investigations of this calibre going on. Sadly, the case does not match the enormous effort put into it. No fewer than 12 witnesses are reported to what largely seems the same object... on four clear nights. There were two each on the 24th, 27th and 28th and six on the 26th. Generally speaking they saw a bright white/blue glow that was stationary in the sky. There were some reports of other colours and scintillation/jerky movements, but nothing that seems inexplicable in terms of autokinesis. The remarkable effort Malcolm put in should be rewarded by your examining the file in the BUFORA records as it is a model of the steps to take to isolate a cause (checking airports, weather centres, observatories, police stations, newspapers etc). I cannot think of anything he DIDN'T do! Stewart Campbell was asked to write an evaluation and he did an excellent job summing up the various sightings. Whilst Edinburgh observatory reported a noctilucent cloud for 2 hours on 23 July the most probable answer in most of these sightings was plainly Venus, very bright and prominent at the time in the same part of the sky.

TWO FROM CHESTERFIELD Investigation: Dave Kelly IUN

Case 8642... On 5 July 1986 at 22.45 hours a 30 year old man, M, was in his bedroom listening to a cassette recorder when he saw a yellow/orange glow to the east over the Ashgate Plantation. He then observed it as an oval with blue flashing lights on top. He ran upstairs and watched it for 20 minutes before it drifted away. He was quoted as saying, "I thought immediately it was a flying saucer. It looked as though it was searching for somewhere to land."

Case 8643... On 3 August 1986 at 13.30 hours a 55 year old qualified lab technician was driving his Cortina 1600 near Tansley, Derbyshire, just outside Matlock and 8 miles SE of Chesterfield. Both he and his wife saw an orange oval in the south west above Cromford. It was stationary and was lost when they passed through trees. After 10 seconds they saw it again, but it shot vertically upwards and disappeared.

ASTRONOMER SEES UFO Case 8704 Level C SP Rating 3-8

How often are we told 'astronomers don't see UFOs'. Witness Gary Anthony from Hull, North Humberside, disproves that. He was observing on 20 February 1987 when at 02.35 GMT he saw a strange light. It appeared at elevation 85 degrees RA 11 hours 22 mins, Declination 59° 9' and tracked slowly southwards, stopping on four occasions for periods of seconds (near the stars Phedda, Merak, El Kophra and the Leo Minor boundary). Total passage was 22 minutes, disappearing at 02.57 GMT at 52 degrees elevation, RA 10 hours +, Declination .20° +. Description of light "amber with red hue, comparative to angular size of second magnitude star, fluctuating in brightness". Seen through field glasses also on a very clear night it was "unlike the appearance of an artificial satellite ... and did not ascribe to any astronomical or meteorological phenomena I am aware of... My impression is that it could well have been outside the earth's atmosphere". The good news is that Gary Anthony has now joined BUFORA and is to become a field investigator.

Case 8705 22 February 1987 Burnley, Lancashire Investigation: Rodney Howarth IUN Level C SP Rating 2-5

Witness, TB, is a security officer, aged 42. He was returning home from work at 05.30 GMT admiring the very clear night when he observed a very bright green ball shoot across the sky extremely fast. It took only moments to do so and disappeared east into cloud. A minute later a second green light was seen as a very brief flash. Despite the witness being familiar with the night sky it cannot be irrelevant that this sighting occurred in the midst of 'one of the most prominent meteor showers of the year... last year Prince Charles' VC-10 was witness to a similar event, if you recall. Surely a bright fireball meteor?

"THE PRETTIEST THING I HAVE EVER SEEN"

Case 8706 April 1987 Wakefield, West Yorkshire Investigation: Philip Mantle IUN Level C SP Rating 4-5

PG, aged 27, with qualifications in art, metalwork and technical drawing was working late at the factory when at 10.15 pm he made some coffee and went into the yard to drink it in the warm, clear air. Suddenly a brilliant football with multi-coloured lights all over its surface glided overhead and majestically sailed away very slowly. It was in view about 50 seconds and much affected this artistic witness, as the quote above shows. It rotated and flashed through the colours without sound and wobbled in its path. Size was that of a football at arms length! An impressive UAP - but would you trust a man who says his job is a fabricator!

Case 8707 23 June 1987 Chester, Cheshire Level C (anonymous to BUFORA)

At 10.50 pm two boys apparently saw a yellow oval with red and green lights on it that jerked as it moved across the sky. They said, "It was too fast-in view just 22 seconds-and normal things that fly don't jerk. It was brighter than the moon...It went behind trees and didn't come back" (Letter to BUFORA enclosing this report was postmarked "Lancaster /Morecambe 6 August")

THE NORTHANTS UFO...ET INVESTIGATES!

Case 8708 2 August 1987 Northampton, Northants Investigation: Ernie Still and Susan Pollock NUFON (!)

The local Northampton paper the *Evening Telegraph* likes to call itself ET. Perhaps in retribution it became ensnared in a major UFO mystery after calls flooded in of a strange very low, slow moving cigar shape with flashing lights that cruised over Northampton, Kettering and Oestborough about 10pm. The Northampton UFO Network soon became involved in collecting reports too and they mostly agreed with one another. Eventually 25 witnesses were found.

"There was a dark blur, a white flashing light underneath and what appeared to be cabin lights on the left hand side. I could hear an engine which wasn't very loud," Noel Ginns reported. Teresa Austin added, "It really was amazing...It was massive, hovering just under the clouds"

Kettering police were suitably 'baffled' but as early as the 5th August the ET claimed to have solved the riddle. Jack Beech of Kettering told them how he had jumped into his car with his wife and neighbour Ken Perrin and chased the slow moving UFO. He said "We were right underneath it and could see it was definitely an airship". The next day another local paper (the *Harborough Mail*) took credit for "solving the mystery". It was an airship from the Bedford base of Airship Industries. The revolutionary Skyship 600 was on a "night flying exercise" according to flight operations administrator Martin Hull. He said, "the airship is 180 feet long and has a white light at each end and green and red lights at each side. It was flying at around 2000 feet and if there was little light from the moon then it would be difficult to tell what it was"

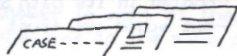
Twelve days later along comes the Northants Post and- guess what? - they too have "solved the mystery". It was, of course, still the airship. Martin Hull told them, "it has been widely reported as being a UFO but I can assure you it wasn't...I must stress that reports of the craft flying at tree top level are wrong. The ship never dropped below 2000 feet."

All cut and dried, eh? Perhaps not. For on that same date, 18 August, Ernie Still, BUFORA AI, was writing in the good old ET that "two of our reports come from prominent people in the area, one a scientist and one a government employee who because of their positions do not wish to be named...Airship Industries did have an airship in the air on the day in question (but) flight control at Cardington was unable to say if it had been a day or night flight...but the spokesman did say that he did not think it had come so far north of Bedford".

What happened to ever confident Martin Hull at Airship Industries? As Ernie quite rightly added, "surely a night flight by an airship flying so low that at times it was reported to be just above tree level must be dangerous".

Of course, if this WAS a Skyship 600 (as seems certain) then it begs many questions about how many other airships (civil and military) are on night flights around Britain and getting conveniently mistaken for UFOs. Some authorities might not mind that very much since it gives them a free hand with otherwise awkward civil aviation authorities and their rules about low flying.

CASE HISTORIES...



THE UFO WITH HIGH TAR CONTENT...MUFORA report

GE, now retired after being disabled with asbestosis whilst working as a miner, is witness to three encounters. He is a reliable and objective observer thanks to his years as an 'Aircraft Recognition Instructor' with the RAF (gaining an AI pass) and then 15 years as a 'special constable' (reaching the rank of sergeant). As he says, "I don't like science fiction in any form...all I want to know is whether there are answers and correlations for my sightings." MUFORA has not been able to find too many, but perhaps readers might suggest some.

The first and most interesting encounter came during the first week of August 1957. He was on holiday on the Mediterranean island of Majorca, lazing on a fairly quiet beach at Porto Soller. Two English couples were nearby and saw the UFO. Both came from the Bournemouth area, although that is all we know. Perhaps a local reader can get an appeal into the papers of that area-just in case?

It was 4pm (approx), a sunny day with a clear sky. Suddenly, directly overhead there was a bright flash. "I thought it was a passing plane, until I saw another reflection in the same area but lower down. I was still watching when there was yet another flash, lower still."

These were caused by the sun shining from a bright metal surface, he soon realised. The sun was to the left but the object was coming vertically downwards. He was now able to see it as a thin plate or disc edge on and vertical. After a few moments thought he assumed it had to be part of a plane (eg a tail fin) crashing down, and he worked out where it would strike, thankfully noting it to be an area devoid of people. "Suddenly, it just stopped dead, twisted (it did not turn) and presented a full round face...I instantly jumped to my feet, pointed and yelled. Now face on it had switched motion without any curves and was instantly going to his right horizontally across the sky - a motion he knew to be impossible, aerodynamically speaking. It was travelling 'fast but not excessive' and was clearly made of dull alloy metal, perhaps a few feet in diameter only. As it passed by before vanishing over cliffs he was able to see very plainly what looked like a cross-set of markings on what would presumably be the underside. 'Ye Gods-No!' he said aloud, being instantly reminded of the German aircraft

marks of World War II. However, he decided these were coverings (possibly for the landing gear) particularly because they were "covered with, and appeared to be exuding, a thick black tar like substance". He later speculated if this was from the exhaust or where the UFO had last taken off. There were no windows or other features. It was totally silent and stayed over the sea all the time. Total duration was 20 seconds, with about 7 or 8 in horizontal flight. As he says, "Two things convinced me the object was not of this planet...the dead stop and then the right angled turn...It was against all the laws of flight (even with birds)"

Are there any parallel cases? NUN 56 in 1979 did report on a six feet diameter disc which was described as looking like it was dirty. This was seen very close up by a young girl in Brierley Hill, West Midlands on 23 May 1978.

Ironically, this same issue reported on another parallel case to GE's third encounter, which was at Harworth, Nottinghamshire, on 18 December 1975. This was of a coffin shape that moved from the north to the south and popped flashes like a flashgun. It was like looking inside a chamber filled with mirrors. Sky was overcast that night, so the case in NUN of a coffin shape in November 1978 (also seen in Nottinghamshire-at Worksop) is less relevant than it might appear, as that was early am on a clear day and Nigel Watson at the time evaluated it as a probable misperception of astronomical bodies through unusual atmospheric conditions.

GEs second sighting came in September 1969, also from Harworth. It was twilight and he saw a formation of seven 'discs' that wavered in flight as they flew across the sky. This sounds like a classic description of a bird flock reflecting either the sun or street lighting from their underbellies. Quite a number of these unusual cases are on record, especially from early autumn.

TWO NEW PHOTOGRAPHIC CASES IUN Reports by Philip Mantle and Dave Kelly

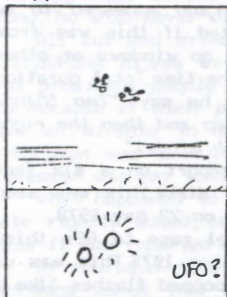
It is not often that we get two daylight photographic cases close together, but these two demonstrate the range of evidence typical of UFO pictures. Both are still under investigation; although BUFORA analyses and (in one case) assessment by optical physicist, Dr Bruce Maccabee, have already been obtained. So it is worth reporting here, with the proviso of more data to come.

The one we shall concentrate on came to IUN via their hotline. Housewife, Mrs C from Chesterfield, Derbyshire, reported that on 12 May 1985, at dusk (approximately 9pm) she was in her rear garden. To the North north east she spotted a very bright object which she took to be a large star or planet. This was mainly because it did not move for about 20 minutes. However, keeping her eye on it (not all the time one assumes) it did appear to suddenly dim and it began to move slowly to the east. As it did so it brightened until it became far brighter than any stars in the sky and seemed to comprise two sets of four lights, side by side with one another.

It was at this point that Mrs C went indoors for her camera, a Mamiya 2E which had a set shutter speed of only a thirtieth of a second and was at f stop 5.6. Only simple 100 ASA Truprint colour film was fitted. To be honest, given these settings and the fact that the camera was hand held, very poor results should be expected. Most witnesses are not photographic experts and use simple cameras such as this, without realising that almost no light in the sky would be reproduced without better equipment, a tripod mount and much longer shutter speed.

Be that as it may, during the 10 minutes in which the object moved through a few degrees of arc to the east before disappearing, Mrs C did take THREE photographs and, rather surprisingly, they came out well.

We only know that 'a few minutes' separated the three pictures, which have different features. All show the sky as twilight blue, and I question the timings based on this. At close to 9.30 pm, as the witness estimates, in early to Mid May, would a camera of such low resolution on such a shutter speed really capture



as much light as it does? Perhaps it was earlier than Mrs C estimates? Any comments from photo experts? Number one is blurred due to camera shake but shows a series of bright lights roughly central that appear to be the object. Street lighting is visible in the lower frame as are several faint pinprick lights said by the witness to be stars. Photo two is the best (see opposite). It is free of very much blurring, shows seven white lights clearly in two parallel lines and was taken, the witness says, during a brief period when the object hovered. Number three came as the object moved away and is similar to number one, with the exception that Mrs C alleges there to be no camera shake and the blurring to be caused entirely by the objects

motion. The negatives were examined by the investigators and found to be numbered consistently. The rest of the shots on the film were ordinary family snaps. So there is no evidence of any hoaxing. Mrs C had not reported it anywhere because she had no idea who to report to, or indeed if anyone would be interested in mere lights. Luckily she saw a press report in June promoting the setting up of the UFO hotline and called the number to explain what she had.

Prints were sent for analysis to BUFORA and Dr Bruce Maccabee in the USA.

The two analyses were quite separate, but very largely agreed. Both made very clear that the pinprick lights could NOT be stars. They were dust specks introduced during processing. The claim of 7 or 8 lights was rejected too. Only TWO are clearly visible, smudged by camera shake to look like more. It is possible that the nature of the processed pictures altered the witness memory of what she saw to make it more consistent with the photographs. This is common in such cases.

Bruce Maccabee was of the opinion that the shots were taken looking west, not north east, due to horizon lighting. This can surely be checked by a site visit. BUFORA's analyst, film editor Nigel Smith, suggests that the objects are not self luminous but reflect the sun, which even when just set on the ground would not have done so to an object (like a balloon) very high above the horizon. Dr Maccabee postulates twin headlight beams on an aircraft as a possibility.

However, both agree that since the pictures do NOT show stars, although the witness says many were visible, her claim about the extreme brightness is vindicated. Neither Venus nor Jupiter, the two most obvious astronomical candidates, were above the horizon at the time. Mars was, but very low down and not bright enough. Consequently, at this stage, we appear to have unexplained lights.

The second case looks much more interesting visually. It was first published in a local newspaper by an unemployed man from Barnsley, South Yorkshire, and

A consists, so he says, of four photographs taken at 5am 'on 5 August 1987 of a disc like object that 'buzzed' his bedroom window like a fly. Investigation is being hampered in a number of ways, but a preliminary Nigel Smith analysis of copies of two prints has occurred and Dr Maccabee is, also looking at them. It would be wise not to say too much at this point, but it is worth saying something if only because YUFOS have already referred to them in *Quest*. So far as the BUFORA, NUFON, IUN investigation is concerned, this case has always been treated with a dose of healthy scepticism as we have had cases like it in the past where the photographs were caused by something UFO-like ON the window rather than in the sky beyond it. More than that, until next issue, it is perhaps best not to speculate upon.

MAJOR WAVE HITS BRITAIN

For a long time people have been predicting an autumn 1987 wave, based on similar events in 1957, 1967 and 1977 (although that was admittedly in the spring). It seems as if we might have mistimed a bit, because August is already the biggest single month for UFO events since 1978. Indeed there are more August cases (around 50 are known so far) than most FULL YEARS since 1978!!!

The majority of these sightings are just lights in the sky. But they are spread around the country, with all the usual 'hot spots' featuring... the Pennines, South Wales and Devon & Cornwall. There appear to be grounds for connecting some of these cases to a major NATO air exercise during the first couple of weeks of the month. However, others obviously do not fit and there is little doubt a real wave took place - whatever one of those is!

The central focus seems to have been, the 48 hours from late on 14 to late on 16 August, when around 20 cases are known. I have also heard accounts of two good close encounters during that period - one an abduction and another with a CE 3 element. This latter case was at Abram, Lancashire, scene of a classic encounter in 1982... EXACTLY five years earlier! Peter Hough of MUFORA and Arthur Tomlinson of DIGAP have been investigating - so more on this in a future issue.

Quite how we will cover this wave in NUN I am not sure, but there will be reports on all the important cases in due course. And the others in our region will rate some sort of mention. We don't wish to stand accused of dismissing LITS and those who want to analyse the wave will then be able to do so.



Firstly, an apology. This issue is a couple of weeks late, as you will have noticed. There WAS a ufological reason. I have been writing an 85,000 word book which is a deep look at the abduction phenomenon. Because my publishers Robert Hale wanted to publish as early into 1988 as possible, to follow the tide of interest generated by Strieber's paperback, I literally had about 8 weeks to do the whole thing. It was quite a challenge and you will see whether it was worth accepting when "Abduction" appears in the Spring. Meanwhile sorry that everything else (even dear old NUN) had to take a temporary back seat.

Some interesting stuff just in from Philip Mantle. The MoD may have made a serious slip up!!! In chasing some police sightings from the early hours of 2 November 1986, in the vicinity of the Emley Moor transmitter in Yorkshire, C R Neville of Air Staff 2a took the unprecedented step of copying the six pages of memos by several police officers, submitted on official West Yorkshire Police forms and describing their personal observations. Only names were deleted.

This data which the MoD SENT to Philip is not terribly exciting (doubtless why it was forwarded). It appears to relate sightings of a brilliant stationary light which several of the officers said was just a star or planet and is, virtually without question, the planet Jupiter (very low and bright on the horizon at the time). More relevant is the fact that they SENT it and offered to do so again (letter 25 September 1987) "if you have any specific queries about a particular incident which has occurred recently".

Even more remarkable, they responded to a query about the 14-16 August mini wave by sending the fully coded telex from RAF West Drayton on a sighting at Pinner, Middlesex at 19.00 hrs on 16 August. This contains no editing (save witness names) and lists (in code) EVERY place the sighting was forwarded to!!!

Six copies went out...one filed, one to our friends at AS 2a (erstwhile DS8), one to DI 55 (a Defence Intelligence Unit referred to by Tim Good in 'Above Top Secret' but who have a letter of reply to YUFOS in the current Quest denying all involvement in UFOs!!). For those sleuths amongst you one copy also went to DO GE/AEW (which sounds like an early warning radar unit)...but IWD went to DSTI. If you know what "DSTI" might be (clearly important as the only government body favoured with two copies) let us know.

Perhaps—at last—we have a clue to the REAL official UFO investigators!

CALENDAR

BUFORA lectures at the London Business School, near Baker Street tube, 6.30-9.30pm
5 December Andy Roberts, IUN "Cracoe...Turning UFO into IFO"

N U F O N Regional Groups

| | | | |
|---------|--------------|---|-------------------------|
| SPI | (Scotland) | 4 Woodlea Park Branshill, Sauchie, Alloa | FK10 3BG |
| NLUFOIG | (Cumbria) | 89 Bare Lane, Morecambe, | Lancashire LA 4 6RN |
| DIGAP | (Lancashire) | 10 Woodlands Ave, Leigh, | Lancashire WN 7 3HL |
| MUFORA | (Gtr Man) | 6 Silsden Ave, Lowton, | Gtr Manchester WA 3 1EN |
| IUN | (Yorkshire) | 106 Lady Ann Rd, Soothill, Batley, W. Yorks | WF17 0PY |
| CUFOSC | (Cheshire) | 117 Earle Street, Crewe, | Cheshire CW 1 2AG |
| SSFR | (Derbyshire) | 17 Old Quarry Ave, Wales, | Sheffield S 31 8RW |
| LUFOIC | (E Midlands) | 31 Grove Rd, Leicester, | Leics LE 5 3HJ |
| BASE | (W Midlands) | 2 Chapel St, Kingswinford, W Midlands | DY 6 0JU |
| N.UFO.N | (Northants) | 46 Occupation Rd, Corby, | Northants NN17 2EF |